

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

- 1-2 (Cancelled).
3. (Currently Amended) A gene encoding ~~the a protein according to claim 1 or 2~~having an amino acid sequence shown in the sequence No. 2 in the sequence table, or an amino acid sequence wherein one or two or more amino acids are added, substituted or deleted in the amino acid sequence, and having an activation ability macrophages.
4. (Original) The DNA according to claim 3 having a base sequence shown in the sequence No. 1 in the sequence table.
5. (Original) The DNA capable of hybridizing to the DNA according to claim 3 or 4 under a stringent condition.
6. (Original) A polynucleotide consisting of at least 14 bases of the DNA according to claim 3 or 4.
7. (Original) The labeled polynucleotide according to claim 6.
- 8-9. (Cancelled).
10. (New) A gene encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in the sequence No. 2 in the sequence table, or an amino acid sequence wherein one or two or more amino acids are added, substituted or deleted in the amino acid sequence, and having an activation ability macrophages, wherein the protein is inducible by nuclear factor NF-IL6.
11. (New) The DNA according to claim 10 having a base sequence shown in the sequence No. 1 in the sequence table.

12. (New) The DNA capable of hybridizing to the DNA according to claim 10 or 11 under a stringent condition.

13. (New) A polynucleotide consisting of at least 14 bases of the DNA according to claim 10 or 11.

14. (New) The labeled polynucleotide according to claim 13.